

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 AF-10 SY-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 PA-02

USIA-15 DRC-01 /062 W

----- 050591

R 191000Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 263

INFO DEA WASHDC

UNCLAS MADRID 6588

PASS UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, SP

SUBJ: NARCOTICS TRAINING-CUSTOMS

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO COMMEND U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE FOR
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CARRYING OUT CUSTOMS TRAINING
IN TWO COURSES HELD IN BARCELONA SEPT 16- OCT 11.
AMCONGEN IN BARCELONA EMBASSY NARCOTIC COORDINATOR, AND DEA REPS
WHO ATTENDED GRADUATION CEREMONIES, HAD OCCASION IN
TALKING WITH CIVIL GUARD OFFICERS TO NOTE EXTENSIVE PRAISE FOR
HIGH QUALITY OF TRAINING AND HIGH COMPETENCE OF CUSTOMS
OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING. RECENTLY APPOINTED
CIVIL GUARD COMMANDER FOR CATALUNA
AND BALEARIC ISLANDS, MAJ. GEN. LUENGO, SPENT OVER SIX
HOURS OCT 11 WITH CUSTOMS OFFICERS, EMBOFF AND DEA REPS WITH
OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATING GOS SUPPORT AND THEIR
PRAISE FOR INCREASING US-SPANISH COLLABORATION IN
CUSTOMS AND NARCOTICS CONTROL MATTERS. ALL OFFICERS OF
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE WHO TOOK PART IN TRAINING IN BARCELONA
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SPECIAL AGENT CHARLES V. WUNDER
OF BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, DESERVE HIGH PRAISE FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTION TO THIS EFFORT. JUDGING BY MANNER IN WHICH
CIVIL GUARD LEADERS TOOK PAINS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR OVERALL
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SATISFACTION WITH TRAINING, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT TRAINING

WAS NOT ONLY EFFECTIVE AS CONTRIBUTION TO NARCOTICS
CONTROL PROGRAM BUT IN OVERALL U.S. EFFORT TO INCREASING
BILATERAL COLLABORATION IN OTHER AREAS.

2. JUDGING BY COMMENTS OF GENERAL LUENGO, IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT CIVIL GUARD MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR
ADDITIONAL UNITS OF CIVIL GUARD. EMBASSY IS AWARE, FOR
EXAMPLE, THAT CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF MARIJUANA ARE
ENTERING SPAIN AT ALGECIRAS FROM MOROCCO AND WOULD HOPE
THAT THIS TRAINING COULD BE GIVEN AT SOME POINT TO CIVIL
GUARD UNITS RESPONSIBLE FOR CUSTOMS CONTROL IN SOUTHERN
SPAIN. SECONDLY, GENERAL LUENGO AND HIS COLLEAGUES
EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN OBTAINING U.S. INFO AND
ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP THEIR OWN NARCOTIC DETECTOR
DOG PROGRAM. U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE OFFICERS PROVIDED THEM
WITH PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF U.S. EXPERIENCE. IT IS
HOPE THAT THE CONCERNED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON WILL
GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE EMBASSY'S EARLIER
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MEETING
THIS SPANISH REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PERSONNEL TRAINING, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID06588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740298-0868
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741033/aaaabbtj.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS TRAINING-CUSTOMS
TAGS: SNAR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005